(b) whether the Federation has also requested for adequate representation in the various Government Committees; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken on their memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Federation is already having adequate representation on various Government Committees.

542. [*Transferred to the 4th August*, 1988]

Upgrading the existing hydro-electric units

543. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govtrnment have decided to upgrade some of the existing hydro-electric units in the country;

(b) if so, which of the Punjab projects have been selected for the purpose; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). UBDC Hydro-electric Project (3x15 MW) in Punjab has been identified for renovation and upgarding. In addition, Bhakra Left Bank (5x18 MW) Bhakra Right Bank (5x132 MW), Kotla (1x29.25 plus 2x24.2 MW), Ganguwal (6x60 MW) and Pong (6x60 MW) of Bhakra-Beas System have also been identified for renovation.

Power resources in Punjab

544. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 474 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1988 and state:

(a) which other hydro-electric projects are likely to be taken up in Punjab after Ranjit Sagar Dam; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Two hydro-electric projects viz. Shahpurkandi (94 MW) and Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (50 MW) in Punjab have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. These projects are awaiting sanction by the Planning Commission.

Measures for completing and commissioning the power projects

545. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the power projects at present in the Northern region in the country the costs of which have substantially escalated due to delays in their completion and commissioning;

(b) what is the comparative percentage of rise in the cost of these power projects (till date) as against the estimated cost;

(c) what are the factors responsible for delay in their completion and commissioning;

(d) by what time these power plants are likely to be commissioned and what is the estimated additional power generation likely to be added in the existing power availability in the Northern region as a result thereof; and

(e) what measures have been taken by Government to ensure that the completion and commissioning of these power projects are not delayed any further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) (b) and(d) The desired information in respect of medium and major power projects is given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 29) A capacity of 8839 MW would be added in the Northern Region, with the commissioning of these Projects.

(c) The main reasons affecting the commissioning schedule of power projects include delays in environment and forest clearance, placement of orders, supply of equipments, changes in scope of the works, delays in acquisition of land and in execution of civil works, and at times resource constraints.

(e) A number of measures have been taken to assist the State/Proeject authorities in expediting the implementation of power projects. These measures include regular monitoring of the projects by the Central Electricity Authority to expedite supply of equipment and materials, visits to projects sites by engineers of the Central Electricity Authority to resolve problems and organising review meeting of agencies concerned, to coordinate project implementation. The need to obviate time and cost overruns in project implementation is being constantly emphasised on implementing agencies.

Surplus stock of molasses

546. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that because of non-lifting of molasses by the distilleries particularly in Uttar Pradesh due to high rate of tax levied by the State Government for inter-state movement of alcohol, huge stocks of molasses have accumulated causing heavy losses to the sugar mills;

(b) whether in view of the prevailing situation, Government propose to allow the sugar industry to export surplus stock of molasses to ease the situation and if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, but the poor lifting has been on account of poor demand and not because of high taxes.

(b) Export of 4 lakh tonnes of Molasses to foreign countries has been allowed for the present.

(c) Does not arise.

Gas turbine units at Ramgundam Super Thermal Power Plant

547. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared any proposal for the installation of more gas turbine units at Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, what would be the additional power capacity generated as a result thereof and the capital cost involved; and

(c) by when such additional power capacity is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present, to instal gas turbine units at the Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of the National Thermal Power Corporation.

Availability of essential drugs

548. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to knowledge of Government that due to dispute between the drug companies and the trade, difficulties have arisen in the availability of essential and life saving drugs; and

(b) whether Government propose to intervene and find a permanent solutio